

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 8, 11, and 14 and cancel claims 5, 12 all as shown below.

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An apparatus for detecting outgas contaminants generated from an article that comprises:

a portable housing that has a chamber which is in communication with a port that is ~~adapted to be~~ sealably attached to a surface of the article;

a mass spectrometer that is coupled to the chamber for analyzing gaseous materials in the chamber; and

means for generating a vacuum within the chamber ~~to thereby drawing~~ draw outgas contaminants from the surface of the article into the chamber, ~~for analysis by the mass spectrometer wherein the outgas contaminants are transferred from the chamber to the mass spectrometer for analysis.~~

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mass spectrometer has an entrance port that is in direct gaseous communication with the chamber.

Claim 3 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for generating a vacuum comprises a pump.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the port includes a nozzle having a polymer lining ~~adapted to seal~~ sealably attached the surface of the article.

Claim 5 (Cancel)

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mass spectrometer generates analysis data for the outgas contaminants and the apparatus includes means for comparing said analysis data for the outgas contaminants to analysis data for a background gas sample.

Claim 7 (Original): A method of analyzing gas contaminants that are generated from an article that is located within an environment, said method comprising the steps of:

- (1) performing a mass spectrometric analysis of the environment;
- (2) performing a mass spectrometric analysis of gas emanating from the article; and
- (3) comparing the analyses from steps 1 and 2 to determine what gas contaminants, if any, are generated from the article.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The method of claim 7 wherein step 2 is performed with an apparatus that comprises:

a portable housing that has a chamber which is in communication with a port that is ~~adapted to be~~ sealably attached to a surface of the article:

a mass spectrometer that is coupled to the chamber for analyzing gaseous materials in the chamber; and

means for generating a vacuum within the chamber ~~to thereby drawing draw~~ outgas contaminants from the surface of the article into the chamber; ~~and for analysis by the mass spectrometer.~~

transferring the outgas contaminants from the chamber to the mass spectrometer for analysis.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the mass spectrometer has an entrance port that is in direct gaseous communication with the chamber.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the means for generating a vacuum comprises a pump.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The method of claim 8 wherein the port includes a nozzle having a polymer lining ~~adapted to seal~~ sealably attached the surface of the article.

Claim 12 (Cancel)

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 8 wherein the mass spectrometer generates analysis data for the outgas contaminants and the apparatus includes means for comparing said analysis data for the outgas contaminants to analysis data for a background gas sample.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The method of claim 8 wherein step 2 comprises:

- (1) positioning the port on a surface of the article;
- (2) creating a vacuum within the chamber whereby gas from the surface is drawn into the chamber; and
- (3) analyzing the gas in the chamber with the mass spectrometer.